

**TOWN OF MANSFIELD  
TOWN COUNCIL  
Ad hoc Committee on Regionalism  
Monday, September 28, 2009  
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building  
Conference Room B  
2:00 pm**

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Members present: B. Clouette, M. Hart, G. Nesbitt  
Guest(s): M. Lindsey

**2. Approval of June 15, 2009 Minutes**

By consensus, the committee approved the minutes from June 15, 2009.

**3. Police Services Study**

Mr. Hart distributed a draft request for qualifications (RFQ) to recruit and retain a consultant to conduct an evaluation of present and future police services in Mansfield. The committee members discussed the pros and cons of operating a municipal police department, as well as other options that might be available to the community. The committee cited the importance of issues such as cost and overhead, employee turnover, community policing, and command and control. The members authorized Mr. Hart to issue the RFQ with a response date of October 30, 2009.

**4. WINCOG Regional Economic Development Plan**

Mr. Hart reported that the WINCOG board had recently received a draft report of the regional economic development plan prepared by AKRF. The draft report sets out a series of recommendations, in particular, the establishment of an economic development organization (EDO) for the region. The WINCOG board will be reviewing the draft over the next month in an effort to produce a final version. The committee agreed that Mr. Hart would forward a copy of the draft plan to the committee members to solicit their input. In addition, Mr. Hart will ask WINCOG to consider inviting other area towns, such as Tolland, to participate in the formation of an EDO.

**5. Ad hoc Regionalization Study Committee**

Mr. Hart reported that the Ad hoc Regionalization Study Committee established to look at regional opportunities for preK-8<sup>th</sup> grade will be meeting again on Thursday,

October 13, 2009. Mark Paquette, the committee's facilitator, has been meeting over the summer with area superintendents of schools and finance directors/school business managers to prepare information regarding cost and other resources necessary to provide various services, such as transportation and food service. Mr. Hart and Mayor Paterson serve as Mansfield representatives to the committee.

## **6. Governor's Council for Local Public Health Regionalization**

Mr. Hart reported that he has been appointed as CCM's representative to the Governor's Council for Local Public Health Regionalization. This group has been tasked with evaluating the local public health structure in Connecticut and providing recommendations regarding a model public health system, including regional components. The Governor's council will meet again on October 2, 2009; Mr. Hart will keep the committee informed of the council's progress.

## **7. Other Opportunities for Regional and Shared Services**

Mr. Hart reported that he and Maria Capriola had met informally with colleagues in Coventry and Tolland to discuss opportunities for shared services. The group briefly reviewed municipal services in general and identified opportunities in the areas of equipment sharing, contracting for professional services, GIS and other software, property assessment and community services such as parks and recreation, library services and human services. Mr. Hart has agreed to convene the group on a regular basis for a more detailed discussion. Mr. Hart will keep the committee informed of his progress.

The members suggested that Mr. Hart look at the services provided by county government in New York State, as these counties may be similar in size to the Coventry/Mansfield/Tolland area. Also, the Northeast Council of Governments is looking at a 12-town cooperative to provide assessment services; this may be of interest to our region. In addition, committee members suggested that Mr. Hart look at the feasibility of creating a regional health insurance pool.

The committee agreed to provide the Town Council with an update at one of the October council meetings.

Mr. Hart reported that his office will be receiving the services of a work study student who happens to be in his second year in UConn's master of public administration program; the student will be able to assist the committee with research and related assignments. Mr. Hart will convene the next meeting for October 2009.

## **8. Adjournment**

The members adjourned the meeting at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew W. Hart  
Town Manager